

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

1. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 8-17, 20 and 22. Claim 18 is rejected.

2. To expedite prosecution of the application, applicants have cancelled claim 18. Because all other pending claims have been allowed, applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as currently presented are patentable and in condition for allowance.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of the instant application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

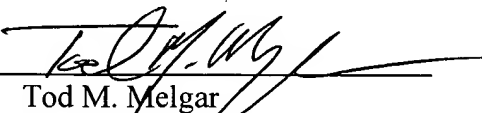
Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this paper to Deposit Account 13-4500, Order No. 2629-4016US1. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: June 3, 2004

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